

Kan. Cong. Dist. No. 1

Keith Sebelius

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

SELGEM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas	
COUNTY: Mitchell	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: Old Cawker City Library	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Northeast corner, 7th and Lake streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Cawker City			
STATE Kansas	CODE 67430	COUNTY: Mitchell	CODE 123

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME: Cawker City Hesperian Historical Society	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Cawker City	STATE: Kansas
	CODE: 67430

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Register of Deeds	
STREET AND NUMBER: Mitchell County Courthouse	
CITY OR TOWN: Beloit	STATE: Kansas
	CODE: 67420

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY: NONE	
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:
	CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Kansas	COUNTY: Mitchell	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1884-1885

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☒ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☒ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry☐ PhilosophyLibrary☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature☐ itarian☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cawker City Library is reportedly one of the first small town public libraries in Kansas. The original library club was organized in 1874 by 16 Cawker City men who offered exclusive membership for \$5.00 apiece. This revenue was used to purchase periodicals and books which were kept for several years in the home of one of the members, Dr. A. Patton. In 1877 the club decided to amend the by-laws and reduce the membership fee to \$1.00, thus extending library privileges to more citizens. At this time the library material was transferred to the law offices of Judge Clark A. Smith and L. S. Tucker. By 1883 the membership had reached 125.

In November, 1883, the women of Cawker City took over the club at the request of the men, and the name was changed to "The Woman's Club." The library material was again moved, this time to the house of Dr. George W. Chapman who offered this space for one year. He also told the club he would donate his mineral collection, said to be worth \$1,500, if the club would build a library building. In August, 1884, the women began raising money for such a facility. After approximately \$1,000 had been donated, a lot was purchased and contracts were let to local men, John Rodgers, a carpenter, and William Foster, a stone mason. Cornerstone ceremonies were Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 1884, and on April 29, 1885, The Woman's Club held its first meeting in the almost completed building. Dedication ceremonies were held July 4, 1885, at which time it was announced that the total cost of the building was \$1,067.00. The club later changed its name to the "Woman's Hesperian Library Club" and obtained a new charter so the men who formed the first library club could be admitted as honorary members. The Hesperian library was housed in this building until September, 1970, when it was moved to new facilities. The old Cawker City Library building now houses the local historical museum.

This small building located in north central Kansas is an excellent example of early Vernacular architecture and is one of the oldest buildings in the state specifically erected for use as a library.

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Cawker City Library building is a one-story structure designed in the Vernacular style of architecture. The rectangular building measures approximately 30 feet long and 20 feet wide and has no basement. The main entrance is located on the south side below a pedimented porch roof. The building is constructed of native limestone blocks laid in a crude running bond pattern. The stones are generally similar in size, uniform in height, and have broken faces, giving a rugged texture to the building. The quoining stones at the corners are similar to the stones of the exterior wall but in addition project from the wall surface. The roof is a hip style with the center portion flat. There are three small gables, one each located on the front and the two sides. A brick chimney protrudes from the roof at each of the end gables. Each of the gables is ornamented by a bargeboard with a lacelike bottom.

A porch structure is located on the south side at the main entrance. The porch roof is a steep gable pediment and is supported by four ornamental columns. The columns are paired on each side of the entrance and are a modified Corinthian style. Each column rests on a stone base block. Small circular openings occur in each gable end, probably to admit light into the attic. The main entrance door is a decorative panel door with glass panes and glass sidelights. Window openings are slender rectangles with shallow arched tops. The windows are of the double hung sash type. Projecting stone sills are located at the bottom of each window and a gently curved stone lintel is at the top. The window lintels are decorated with a small rectangular recess at each end.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cawker City Journal, December 3, 1884; July 3, 1885.
 Cawker City Ledger, April 17, 1941; July 6, 1961; September 17, 24,
 October 1, 1970.
 "Kansas' First Library," Kansas City Journal, March 14, 1908.
 Lingg, Warren J., Four Score and Ten--History of Cawker City, Kansas
 (Cawker City, Kan., The Cawker City Ledger, 1961), pp. 13,
 30, 51.
Public Record (Cawker City), January 3, 1889.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CCRNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0		39 30 38	98 25 58	
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:			Charles L. Hall, Architectural Consultant Richard Pankratz, Planner		
ORGANIZATION				DATE	
Kansas State Historical Society				April 28, 1972	
STREET AND NUMBER:					
120 West Tenth street					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE		CODE
Topeka			Kansas 66612		20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name Nyle H. Miller
 Nyle H. Miller

Title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

Date July 14, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS